cost of all RR benefits. The policy provides a minimum prescribed package above which the project authorities are free to provide additional benefits. Importance of an adequate grievance redressal and minitoring mechanism is envisaged at local, state and national level.

Government of India has also enacted Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which lay down procedures for Environment and Forest clearance of the projects and address environmental concerns.

Drying up and Silting of Down-Stream River Beds

2748. SHRI E.BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the big dams and barrages have cuased drying up and silting of down-stream river beds of almost all the rivers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the effect of the dried up and silted river beds on environment and economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) There is no report of completely drying up and silting of rivers due to construction of dams and barrages. However, there may be reduction in flows in the immediate vicinity down-stram of dams/barrages. Further down-stream the rivers are rejuvenated by the return flows from the irrigation commands. Most of the dams are provided with the river sluices to make releases to meet the requirement of minimum flows for maintaining the river regime.

Due to population pressure and abatrsction for water of various purposes there is a general reduction in the flows of the rivers during the lean season. This reduction of flow leads to reduced pollutant carrying capacity of the rivers in affected reaches and thereby affecting the quality of water in the rivers.

Level of Sub-Soil Water

2749. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :